

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/660,891	EGAN, BRIAN	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Mitchell R. Slavitt	2651	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to an amendment filed 7/6/05.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-14, 16-17, 19-20, and 23-24, renumbered as 1-20.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

Reasons for Allowance

1. Claims 1-14, 16-17, 19-20, 23-24 are allowed as the prior art does not teach or suggest the applicant's invention. Independent claim 1 teaches a tape drive system. The distinguishing element of the claim is a pressure sensor comprising a plurality of pressure sensing elements positioned to sense a pressure gradient across the head assembly in a lateral direction perpendicular to a direction of tape travel.

Independent claim 12 teaches a method of operating a tape drive system. The distinguishing element of the claim is determining whether the pressure detected by the pressure sensor corresponds with the desired tape medium tension comprises calculating a tension in the tape medium based upon the pressure detected by the pressure sensor and acceleration of the head support detected by the accelerometer.

Independent claim 16 teaches a tape drive system. The distinguishing element of the claim is a pressure sensor comprising one or more pressure sensing elements, each pressure sensing element comprising a transducer for producing the signal representative of the pressure applied by the magnetic tape medium onto the pressure sensing assembly.

Independent claim 23 teaches a tape drive system. The distinguishing element of the claim is a motor controller coupled to the take-up reel motor, the supply reel motor, and the pressure sensor, the motor controller being configured to control the rotation of the take-up reel motor and the supply reel motor in response to changes in the pressure signal to maintain a desired tension in a tape medium passing between a take-up reel coupled to the take-up reel motor and a supply reel coupled to the supply reel motor.

Conclusion

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mitchell R. Slavitt whose telephone number is (571) 272-7562. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (6:30-4:00), 2nd Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David R. Hudspeth can be reached on (571) 272-7843. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MS *mj*
9/28/05


DAVID HUDSPETH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 260